

CON EDISON

CUSTOMER NEWS

MANHATTAN

JUNE 1996

SUMMER AND YOUR CON EDISON BILL

Customers often ask us why their energy bills are higher during the summer. Increased use of electricity for air conditioning is one major reason. Here's how to keep cool this summer, and save on energy costs.

YOUR AIR CONDITIONER

- Turn off the air conditioner when you leave home. If you want to return to a cool room, install a timer and set it to turn on the air conditioner about one-half hour before you arrive. Air conditioner timers are available at hardware stores.
- A clean filter helps your air conditioner operate more efficiently. Check the filter once a month and clean or replace it if necessary.
- Adjust the temperature control so that the room gets no cooler than 78 degrees F. Lower temperature settings increase your energy costs.
- If the air outside is cool, turn off the air conditioner and open the windows instead, or use a window fan to draw cool air inside. Fans use as little as one-tenth the

electricity needed by an air conditioner.

- Close draperies or blinds during the day to block out heat.

YOUR REFRIGERATOR

- Refrigerators also use a lot of electricity, but you can save money by unplugging the unit if you expect to be away for a month or more. Empty and clean your refrigerator, prop the doors open and put an open box of baking soda in both compartments to eliminate odors.

Old refrigerators and air conditioners use more electricity than newer energy-efficient models. If you're ready to replace these appliances, call Con Edison at 1-(800)-343-4646 for information about the energy-efficient models now available.

HEAT AND HYPERTHERMIA
Hot weather can be hazardous, especially if you're susceptible to hyperthermia (heat-related illness). Summer heat and humidity can make you sweat too much, or not sweat enough. These conditions can result in heat stress, which is dangerous if
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BULLETIN BOARD

GREEN LIGHTS

Energy-efficient lighting, or Green Lights, helps you save money on energy bills, and improves air quality. The Green Lights Program, sponsored by the US Environmental Protection Agency, encourages customers to become Green Lights Partners for cleaner air by installing energy-efficient lights that last longer and use less electricity. For more information about the program, please call the Green Lights Hotline at (202) 775-6650, or access the EPA Green Lights and Energy Star Home Page: <http://www.epa.gov/docs/GCDOAR/EnergyStar.html>.

AIDS VOLUNTEERS

The Nicholas A. Rango Health Care Center, 45 Rivington St., is a 219-bed, AIDS-specific residential health care facility which also offers an Adult Day Health Care Program. Volunteers are needed to work with residents and clients and perform administrative duties during the day, evening and on weekends. A 6-hour orientation program is provided days or evenings. For details, please call (212) 539-6219, weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

HEARTS & VOICES

The professional performers and volunteers of Hearts & Voices bring music, care and comfort to those hospitalized with AIDS. Volunteers visit patients and escort them to the Hearts & Voices performances. The average visit is about one hour. Hours are flexible. For more information, please call (212) 799-4276.

FREE FOOD FOR KIDS

Beginning June 27 through August 30, the federally-funded Community Food Resource Center, Inc., will provide free meals on weekdays to needy children and teenagers through age 18. There are no forms to fill out. Just come for breakfast and lunch to one of the designated neighborhood locations throughout the five boroughs. For the locations in your area, please call (212) 344-0195.

FOSTER PARENTS

The Salvation Army's Social Services for Children is looking for foster parents to provide care and guidance to needy youngsters. Applicants must be age 21 or older, have an extra bedroom to accommodate the child, work with social workers and the foster care agency, and comply with state regulations. The Salvation Army provides intensive orientation for applicants and monthly foster care training for parents. For complete details, please call (212) 807-6100, Ext. 604.

HELP THE ELDERLY

The Burden Center for the Aging, Inc. offers many opportunities for volunteers to help the elderly, including friendly visits, telephone reassurance, food shopping, and escorting seniors to the bank or to medical appointments. The Burden Center is at 445 E. 85th St. in Manhattan. For more information, please call Barbara Hessberg, director of volunteers, at (212) 860-5044.

